

**SITUATION REPORT NO. 49**  
**INCIDENT NO. 97-015**  
**DATE: June 13, 1997      TIME: 12:00 P.M.**

**TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer**  
**State Capitol**  
**Bismarck, ND 58505**

- 1.    NATURE OF DISASTER: Spring flood statewide.**
- 2.    DEATHS AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.**
- 3.    DAMAGES: The N.D. Department of Health reports that 29 Grand Forks area residents suffered from carbon monoxide poisoning while cleaning their flood-damaged homes. They had been operating improperly ventilated gas-powered water pumps or power washers.**

The level of Devils Lake at Creel Bay has increased only 0.01 feet during the past two days to 1,442.18 feet. Forecasts call for the lake to rise to 1,443 to 1,444 feet by mid-July.

The Missouri River at Williston has risen to 24.07 feet. At this level, agricultural flooding occurs south and east of Williston. Oil companies temporarily suspend pumping operations. The National Weather Service expects the river to crest at 24.2 feet.

- 4.    RESOURCES:**

**LOCAL: No change from previous reports.**

**STATE: No change from previous reports.**

**FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.**

- 5.    VOLUNTEER ACTION: A Chagrin Falls, Ohio, man who helped with sandbagging efforts in Neche, organized a supply drive for flood survivors in Pembina County. He sent a truckload of canned goods, cleaning supplies and a washer and dryer. These items will be distributed by the Pembina County Food Pantry, WIC Office and the Social Services Department.**
- 6.    MAJOR ACTIONS: In keeping with its goal to prevent or mitigate damages caused by disaster, the N.D. Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) will**

**finalize buyout plans on June 16 for the city of Bowesmont in Pembina County. Twenty-two structures, including 14 homes, will be purchased through HMGP. These structures are located in the Red River floodplain and are subject to repeated flooding. Under program guidelines, homeowners will be required to move from the 100-year floodplain.**

**The Department of Health is conducting an active injury surveillance program with the emergency room staff at United Hospital in Grand Forks. The program's purpose is to identify key disaster-related health problems and implement appropriate intervention and educational strategies. The surveillance program began on May 2, the first day the emergency room was reopened after evacuation of the city, and will continue indefinitely. During May 2 through June 5, the emergency room staff examined 2,854 patients. The Health Department's Preventive Health Section staff is reviewing information from these examinations to determine if they are related to the disaster.**

**The Health Department's Disease Control Division staff has advised Grand Forks-area residents about potential health risks if they replace sheetrock before flood-damaged wood dries. Staff members recommend placing sheetrock in late summer or fall to avoid mold problems. A meter that measures moisture content in wood is available through the North Dakota State University (NDSU) Extension Office in Grand Forks.**

**Disaster assistance applicants have been asked to update their addresses and telephone numbers by calling the toll-free helpline at (800) 525-0321. Disaster workers have reported difficulties estimating how many Grand Forks residents are still out of their homes and have not returned to the Grand Forks area.**

**The State/Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Disaster Housing Program staff is developing a policy to address housing needs for returning college students.**

**FEMA has made available its Mortgage and Rental Assistance Program to assist those persons whose homes were not damaged by the floods, but because of disaster-related financial hardships cannot meet their monthly rent or mortgage payments. The application deadline is October 7. Applicants are directed to call the National Teleregistration Center to register damages at (800) 462-9029.**

**To date, Public Assistance staff has determined that costs of eligible damages total nearly \$16.7 million for infrastructure repairs, emergency**

work and debris removal in the declared counties.

Nearly 34,500 North Dakotans have reported personal property damages to the NTC. Of those applicants, 22,704 applicants have received \$40,769,128 million in Disaster Housing assistance.

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has approved \$102 million in low-interest loans for businesses and individuals. The SBA has received 9,363 loan applications, 4,783 of which have been approved.

The state Individual and Family Grant (IFG) program has approved nearly \$2.9 million in grants to individuals for flood losses. The average IFG grant is \$1,153.

7. **ASSISTANCE NEEDED:** No change from previous reports.
8. **OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE:** No change from previous reports.
9. **OTHER:** Other web site addresses for flood recovery information include:

N.D. Division of Emergency Management: <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>

N.D. League of Cities: <http://www.ndlc.org>

N.D. State Water Commission: <http://water.swc.state.nd.us>

N.D. Department of Agriculture: <http://www.state.nd.us/agr/>

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: <http://www.ncs-wc.usace.army.mil>

U.S. Geological Survey: <http://srv1dndbmkr.cr.usgs.gov/public/>

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Douglas C. Friez, State Director SITUATION